

Art Unit 261

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Szlam et al. (Szlam).

Claims 17 and 20 are broad enough to be met by Szlam which discloses a customer account online servicing system in which a message player 10a9 queries a caller with different messages, the particular message being determined by how the caller has identified himself, that is, whether or not the caller has an established account (col. 12, line 9 - col. 13, line 18).

3. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Scanlon.

Claim 27 is broad enough to be met by Scanlon which discloses a lottery system in which customer identification is received using automatic number identification arrangements and allowing lottery entry only for callers with a valid personal identification number (col. 4, lines 1-21).

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4. Claims 18-19, 21-23, 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-16, 24-26 are allowable over the prior art of record.
6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 6-11, 13-16 have been considered but are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.
7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

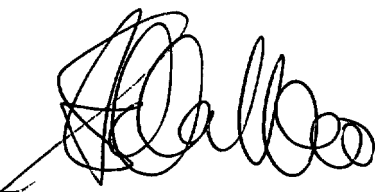
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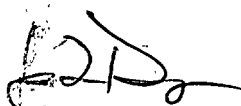
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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stella Woo whose telephone number is (703) 308-4971.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0962.


Stella Woo
September 06, 1991


JAMES L. DWYER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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